



## **WESTMINSTER TRAFFIC COMMISSION**

### **Minutes of the Regular Meeting**

City Council Chambers, 8200 Westminster Blvd.

Tuesday - April 26, 2011 at 6:00 pm

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#### **CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Westminster Traffic Commission was called to order by Chairman A. Nguyen on Tuesday, April 26, 2011 at 6:03 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 8200 Westminster Boulevard, Westminster, California.

#### **SALUTE TO FLAG**

Commissioner Cruz led the members of the audience in the Salute to the Flag.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners Present:** Diana Carey, Gilbert Cruz, Andrew Nguyen, Linh Nguyen and Ken Robbins

**Commissioners Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Adolfo Ozaeta, Associate Civil Engineer; Corporal Mark Lauderback, Police Department; and Veronica Johnson, Secretary.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the Traffic Commission's regular meeting of March 29, 2011 were approved 5-0.

#### **ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED**

The Commission agreed to hear the second item on the agenda first at the request of a resident in the audience.

The first item to be considered at this evening's meeting was T.C. 88-108, Request for Parking Restrictions on Westminster Boulevard at College Street.

#### **T.C. 88-108 Westminster Blvd.**

Mr. Ozaeta directed attention to an aerial photograph for clarification on the location. Staff received a written request from Jim Bunck stating his concern for the lack of sight visibility to the east to make a turn maneuver from College Street onto Westminster Boulevard. In addition, staff received four phone calls from residents in support of Jim Bunck's request.

Mr. Ozaeta informed the Commission that construction for the raised landscaped medians on Westminster Boulevard will start later this month. The lanes will be modified from a 2-way left turn lane to turn pockets to access the side streets and remain stop controlled at College Street.

Staff performed a 5-second corner sight distance analysis at subject location to identify if vehicles can safely maneuver a turn onto Westminster Boulevard. There are

existing parking restrictions and Mr. Bunck believes the raised medians will further disrupt visibility. The engineering calculation discovered that an additional 45 feet of parking restrictions to the east of College Street would be needed to increase sight visibility. Since 2006, three accidents were reported on the traffic accident collision data; two were attributed to sight visibility.

Corporal Lauderback regularly enforces traffic on Bolsa Chica and Westminster Boulevard and predominately monitors areas under construction. They were not aware of a problem at this intersection due to the minimal accident data. Additionally, the police department has not received any complaints regarding speed or right of way violations. The speed does get high; but, not any higher than any other 45 mph speed limit zone.

Mr. Ozaeta added that once staff receives a concern with sight visibility, they always evaluate both sides of the street. Staff found the restrictions on the opposite side of the street to be more than adequate for eastbound traffic.

Jim Bunck, 5211 Hartford Way, spoke in favor of parking restrictions as he frequently travels the area. The high profile vehicles parked at subject location make it very difficult to see. Mr. Bunck calculated that when a vehicle is traveling 50 mph, he would have only 2.7 seconds to react. He believes an additional 130 feet, rather than 45 feet of restrictions, would allow 4.1 seconds for a reaction. He handed out a map factoring his calculations. He believes this is a safety issue and the new raised medians will only create more accidents because there would no longer be an area to be able to wait in the middle.

Commissioner Carey stated the subject location is in her neighborhood and occasionally she makes a left turn at the intersection. She had noticed a white truck normally parked there and concurs that restrictions should be lengthened. She is concerned with the new medians because you would have to make the turn maneuver in one sweep.

Mr. Ozaeta explained the police department could enforce the parking and restrictions could start at 45 or 60 feet and increased thereafter if necessary.

Vice Chairman Robbins had noticed motor homes in the past and is in favor of parking restrictions for a length of 4 cars or up to 60 feet.

Commissioner Cruz supports 60 feet of restrictions, as long as the parking in the area is not impacted.

**MOTION**

Commissioner Cruz moved to install additional parking restrictions on the north side of Westminster Boulevard for a distance of 60 feet to the east of College Street, seconded by Commissioner Carey.

**VOTE**

The motion was carried by a 5-0 vote.

**T.C. 11-103  
Edinger Avenue**

The second item to be considered at this evening's meeting was T.C. 11-103, Request to Install "Keep Clear" pavement markings on the north side of Edinger Avenue at Ord Way.

Mr. Ozaeta referred to Exhibit A and Exhibit B for illustration. Staff received a written request from Teresa Quick requesting "Keep Clear" markings on Edinger Avenue at Ord Way. This included a petition of 42 residential signatures in favor of pavement markings. The residents believe that the frequent back up of traffic from Edinger Avenue is impacting their ability to enter and exit the neighborhood during peak hours.

Staff performed three site visits to evaluate if the five criterions were met for implementation of pavement markings. They reviewed the accident report and conducted traffic counts. Their results did not observe the backup of traffic, the 30 vehicle threshold was not exceeded, motorists did not have a 120 second delay to proceed through the intersection and no collisions have been reported since 2006. As an example, Mr. Ozaeta stated that Fountain Valley does not install "Keep Clear" markings because of the increase in broadside accidents.

**STAFF'S  
RECOMMENDATION**

Staff's recommendation was to deny the request for "Keep Clear" pavement markings for westbound traffic on Edinger Avenue at Ord Way.

Robert Lee Quick, 8592 Boone Circle, spoke in favor of the pavement markings. Residents have asked the police department to observe the traffic diverting from Bella Terra because they speed and cut through their neighborhood. Their alternate routes to travel south are also not safe. They would like this intersection to be their predominant way of travel. They are concerned with safety, future

accidents and believe that the markings will be a safety precaution.

Jim Gerard, 8602 Crockett Circle, spoke in favor of pavement markings because Bella Terra has added to the traffic. There are traffic patterns and for that reason there should be a warning because vehicles may ignore pavement markings through a neighborhood.

Vice Chairman Robbins stated that in his experience, "Keep Clear" markings are not effective. People do not respect the markings and stop through them.

Jim Gerard believes markings should be placed and enforced. We cannot assume they will be ignored and there should be a warning.

Robert Lee Quick stated that the pavement markings are like a crosswalk and indicate a pathway to go through. What is the cost for safety? Can we try it for a year?

Commissioner Carey observed the traffic signal on a Saturday afternoon. She found that two of the five cycles formed a back up of traffic. That back up of traffic moved very quickly and if markings were placed, there may be a broadside accident waiting to happen. She did not observe the location during a morning peak hour; however, her concern is that the speed of traffic travels too fast for markings to be placed.

Commissioner L. Nguyen stated that pavement markings should not be placed for the reason that the five qualifications had not been met.

Mr. Ozaeta informed the Commission that staff received seven residential calls in favor of pavement markings.

Chairman A. Nguyen stated that staff can look into other alternatives if the item does not pass.

Commissioner Cruz was concerned with the safety of motorists travelling in their lane through a "Keep Clear" marking, while other motorists were stopped in their lane.

Mr. Ozaeta informed the Commission that this is the reason for the criteria to be stringent. The traffic does not stop uniformly on three lane roadways and consequently increases accidents.

Corporal Lauderback stated that there had not been any accidents reported since 2006. He questioned if this is an issue of people being courteous and polite or if it was a safety issue. In his professional opinion, 17 years of law enforcement and 10 years in traffic enforcement, these markings give people a false sense of security. People assume that all lanes will stop or that the last lane is clear. There has been an increase in accidents as these markings are not safe and people should think about being more courteous.

Mr. Ozaeta proposed installing a sign reading "Intersection Ahead" with the street name Ord Way beneath; however, this would be advisory for drivers who may not be aware of a signal ahead and not for enforcement.

Commissioner Carey is in favor of the sign, but not a "Keep Clear" marking.

#### **MOTION**

Commissioner Carey moved to approve staff's recommendation to deny the request for "Keep Clear" pavement markings and install a warning sign to include a T-intersection westbound on Edinger before Ord, seconded by Commissioner Cruz.

#### **VOTE**

The motion was carried by a 5-0 vote.

#### **T.C. 75-103 Hazard Avenue**

The third item for discussion was T.C. 75-103, Staff Proposal to Install Parking Restrictions on the north side of Hazard Avenue, west of Cedarwood Street.

Mr. Ozaeta informed the Commission that the parking restrictions have been installed and is bringing this before the Commission to be officially approved prior to Council.

Vice Chairman Robbins clarified for the Commission that two projects were in effect simultaneously; first, a relocation of a sewer main from the south side to the north side of Hazard; secondly to finish the project, a box was placed under the number two lane by the County.

Mr. Ozaeta explained that the Traffic Department was not initially informed of the project; otherwise, restrictions would have been brought before the Commission prior to installation. He further explained that after completion, the Civil Engineers found one side of the roadway to be more elevated than the other; therefore, installed a median in the middle in order to bridge that. Once the Traffic Department

was asked to inspect the markings for compliance to open the roadway, they had to install the parking restrictions for the road to be safe. The 185 feet of restrictions were placed in front of Midway located to the west of Cedarwood Street.

**STAFF'S**

**RECOMMENDATION** Staff's recommendation was to approve the installation of parking restrictions on the north side of Hazard Avenue, west of Cedarwood Street.

**MOTION**

Commissioner L. Nguyen moved to approve staff's recommendation for the installation of parking restrictions on the north side of Hazard Avenue, west of Cedarwood Street, seconded by Chairman A. Nguyen.

**VOTE**

The motion was carried by a 4-0 vote with Vice Chairman Robbins abstaining. .

**NEW BUSINESS**

The Commission was informed that a tour of the new Police Department Building will be arranged in the future. The potholes that were brought up at the last meeting are being addressed through the Corporation Yard. Commissioner L. Nguyen's request for a stop sign will be addressed at an upcoming meeting.

Commissioner Carey thanked Corporal Lauderback and his motorist, Mr. Walker, for enforcing Homer and Edwards. She visited with All American Asphalt and addressed the Commission's concerns with their trucks speeding down the hill. The owner volunteered to pay for the restriping of the road in that area.

Mr. Ozaeta provided updates on the City's projects and stated they currently have issues with their current striping contractor and will be proposing to go out to bid.

Commissioner L. Nguyen has received many traffic complaints on Moran and Bolsa and Mr. Ozaeta offered to share with him a map of detour routes during the interim. Mrs. Johnson informed the Commission that information regarding City projects can be found on the City's website and will provide estimated dates for completion.

Commissioner Cruz stated that the "No Left Turn" sign posted at the Walgreens cannot be viewed being covered in shrubbery.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There were no "Old Business" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.



**INFORMATION  
& REPORTS**

There were no "Information and Reports" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**ORAL  
COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no "Oral Communications" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**WRITTEN  
COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no "Written Communications" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**ITEMS  
COMMISSIONERS  
MAY WISH TO  
DISCUSS**

Vice Chairman Robbins stated Magnolia Street will be shut down for a while. He requested that staff study Magnolia Street between Westminster and Hazard to transition three lanes on both sides of the street for a better flow of traffic. Mr. Ozaeta explained that the item will be brought to the upcoming meeting.

Vice Chairman Robbins also requested that staff investigate the I-405 freeway entrance at Westminster approaching Springdale as there is an island that appears to be a safety hazard. Mr. Ozaeta explained that this particular on ramp may be eliminated if funded through the I-405 expansion project and will bring an illustration of all of the projected modifications.

**ITEMS STAFF MAY  
WISH TO DISCUSS**

Mrs. Johnson informed the Commission that the plaques, name tags and business cards are ready and available for the Commission.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ma'wan Youssef  
Public Works Director/City Engineer

  
By: Veronica Johnson  
Secretary